

Serial No. 09/433,380  
Amendment dated May 17, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of April 1, 2005

Docket No. MRE-0014

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 10-22 and 24-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 10-21 and 30 are allowed, and that claims 26-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 26-28 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract due to an informality. The Substitute Abstract filed herewith is responsive to the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 22-25 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,518,361 to Smith. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, a plurality of tray plates stacked on the movement plate and configured to move upward and downward within the guide frame, wherein each of the tray plates is configured to receive a tray holding a plurality of semiconductor devices, and at least one stopper mechanism which is configured to selectively engage and disengage with a corresponding side portion of one of the plurality of tray plates. Smith neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination.

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Smith discloses a system for high speed handling of compact disc storage containers (cases 1-5), including a pair of vertical stack guide rails 36 that maintain vertical alignment of cases in the stack, and a pair of retractable stacking shelves 40 that support the bottom-most case when in their supporting position (see Figures 3 and 5 of Smith). When a new case is positioned beneath the stack and lifted by a pair of case indexing fingers 30 for loading, the retractable stacking shelves 40 are retracted (see Figure 3, element 40', and Figure 5 of Smith). The newly loaded case, and thus the entire stack, is moved vertically by the indexing fingers 30 until the bottom surface of the newly loaded case is positioned above the horizontal surface of the stacking shelves 40. The stacking shelves 40 are then extended back into their supporting position, and the upper horizontal surface of the stacking shelves 40 supports the bottom surface of the newly loaded case.

Smith's apparatus is specifically designed for the loading and stacking of compact disc containers, and Smith neither discloses nor suggests a plurality of tray plates each configured to receive a tray holding a plurality of semiconductor devices, as recited in independent claim 22. Further, the upper horizontal surface of the stacking shelves 40, which the Examiner compares to the stopper mechanism recited in independent claim 1, engages with the bottom surface of the bottom-most case, and not a side portion of the case. As clearly shown in Figures 3, 4, and 5 of Smith, the vertical surface of the stacking shelves 40, which the Examiner has annotated as the blocking protrusion, does not have any contact with the case at all, and contact is clearly

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limited to that between the bottom surface of the case and the upper horizontal surface of the shelves 40. Smith does not disclose or suggest that the stacking shelves 40 in any way engage side portions of the cases, as does the at least one stopper mechanism recited in independent claim 22.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 22 is not anticipated by Smith, and thus the rejection of independent claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Smith should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 24, 25, and 29, as well as objected to claims 26-28, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 22, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

### CONCLUSION

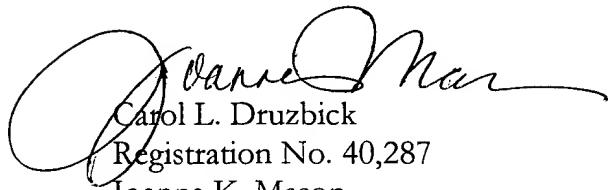
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **JOANNA K. MASON**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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